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Daniel B. Ruble Registration No. 40,794

DATE: May 3, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Edlein et al

Group Art Unit:

1772

Serial No.:

09/657,679

Examiner:

S. Nolan

Filing Date:

September 8, 2000

Docket No.:

D-43378-01

Title:

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action mailed December 3, 2003, the period for response having been extended until May 3, 2004 by the enclosed Petition for Extension of Time, please consider the remarks that follow.

- 1. The pending claims are as set forth in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.
- 2. The remarks begin on page 18 of this paper.